

St. Joseph School Grades 3 & 6 Quilt Project

Quilting Notes:

Completely finished quilts are due in school in early March however, if you can finish it by Catholic Schools Week, it will be put on display for Open House

All material should be washed prior to assembly. This will protect the completed quilt from pulling apart during washing if shrinkage occurs.

As much as possible is completed in school. The students should have cut 18 squares each (6" x 6") of two coordinating materials. Material should be cotton and of similar weight. The squares are sewn together in rows of 6 until 36 squares are pieced together. As the 6 rows go together the corners of every 4 squares should match up and come together. If this isn't the case, ease them together the best you can. If you need some help in this area you can send the quilt into your child's teacher (make sure you send a note!) and she can send it home to one of the volunteer sewing Moms for adjustment and/or machine touch ups. Once the top is complete you can iron it from the back to smooth down any seams, if needed. Seams should not be ironed open.

To Assemble the Quilt:

1. Place quilt back on floor (wrong side, or inside, facing up) with batting on top (middle layer) and finished patchwork top, on top of that (right side up, so you can see the design). The batting should be 1 layer thick (homemade quilts are not necessarily "puffy") although some students have chosen to use 2 layers, which is fine.
2. The batting should be trimmed to be the same size as the quilt top (around 34"-35" square). The bottom layer should be slightly larger; trim to about 1-2 inches wider in both directions (3 "Y"-SS" square). Make sure the 3 layers are sandwiched together before you do any trimming.
3. Quilting is the next step, which holds the 3 layers together to keep the batting in place, preventing it from shifting. The "ties" should be made at intervals across each row at the intersection of 4 squares. You can quilt at every intersection or every other one (15 ties total). Both will hold nicely. This should be done before the backing edge is pinned over the front (to bind the edge), that way you can smooth the fabric to the edge prior to binding. Yarn was suggested for the quilting and if you can thread a needle with it, go for it! An easier option is embroidery floss (6 strands) available at most craft stores or Wal-Mart. Start with a long piece of yarn or floss threaded through the needle, do not knot end. Next insert needle from the top to the back & back up to the top, cut off at approximately 1-2" and tie with a double knot. Go to the next intersection of 4 squares (See diagram on page 2.)
4. Next the outer edge of the backing should be folded in to meet the edge of the patchwork top and then folded again, to cover ½ to 1" of the quilt top, and pinned. At the corners you can use a basic square fold (90°), folding one edge over the other, or a 45 degree fold. When pinning be sure to catch the quilt top and some batting in the "binding" This outer edge should be hand sewn with an under cast stitch which results in an "invisible" stitch. Have the student catch the under edge of the binding and the quilt top in each short stitch. This should be sewn with a double thread - color that closely matches the binding. This forms a frame around the quilt, secures the batting and hides the raw edges of the fabric. (See diagram on page 2.)